New Law to Confiscate Illegal Properties of Public Servants

1365. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for enactment of a new law to confiscate properties of public servants and their relatives believed to have been acquired by illegal means;

(b) if so, whether Government agrees that the Law Commission's suggestion merit utmost consideration to eradicate the cancer of corruption effectively; and

(c) if so, what decision Government have taken on the Law Commission's recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Law Commission to enact Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1999 is still at examination stage in consultation with the quarters concerned and no final decision in the matter has so far been taken.

Shortage of Manpower with CBI

1366. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to manpower constraints, the CBI is not in a position to handle the number of cases referred to it;

(b) if so, the total number of cases being handled by CBI now;

(c) whether in many cases CBI has not taken any initiative, so far, due to manpower constraints; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen CBI for early disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Such cases which merit CBI investigation in terms of the provisions of the CBI Crime Manual are taken up for investigation by the Bureau. Besides cases are also entrusted

to the CBI by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Manpower constraints do not come in the way of the CBI taking up such cases for investigation.

(b) As on 30.6.2000, 1785 cases are under investigation by the CBI.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Action has been taken to implement the Supreme Court's judgement dated 18.12.1997 in the Vineet Narain case which contained directions for improving the functioning of the CBI. In pursuance of the Judgement, the Government has, *inter alia*, sanctioned 250 posts upto the level of DIG for strengthening the CBI's in-house expertise.

Constitution for Review Committee for Creamy Layer in OBC

1367. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 303 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th March, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have since constituted a Review Committee to revise the income criteria of creamy layer for the purpose of reservation of seats for OBC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it has since reviewed the matter and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above is negative what are the reasons therefor and whether responsibility is being fixed on the persons for not constituting a Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is under examination in consultation with other Ministries/Departments/Commission concerned.

Unemployment Problem in NER

1368. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that solution to unemployment problem should top the list of priorities for restoration of peace in the NER;